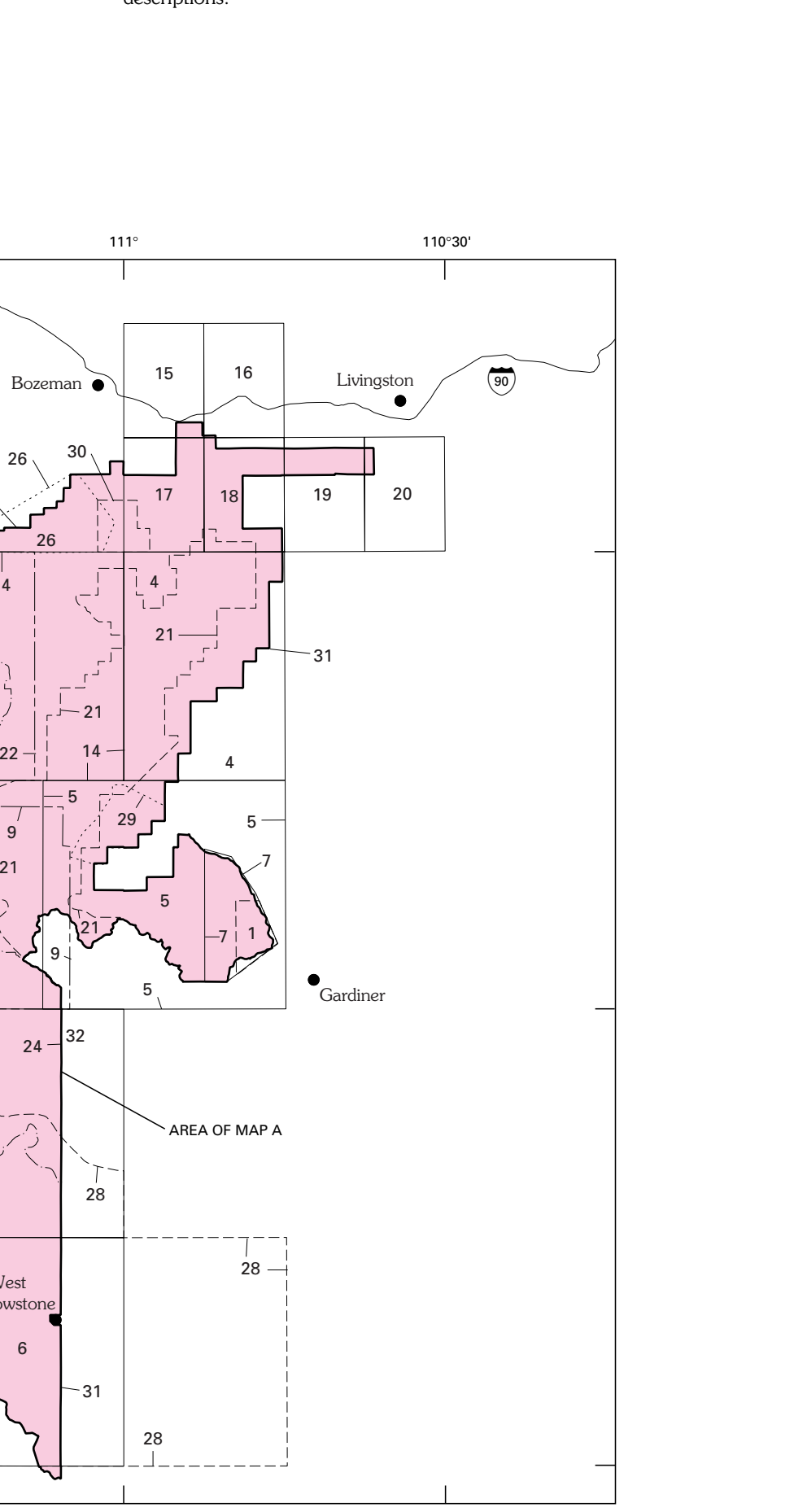


INTRODUCTION

The geology of Gallatin National Forest (GNF) was mapped as part of an evaluation of its mineral resource potential by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Map A, the western part of GNF, south of Interstate Highway 90 (I-90) and west of the Yellowstone River, includes the Gallatin and Madison Ranges and the West Yellowstone area. Map B, the northern part of GNF, north of I-90, includes the Bridger Range and Crazy Mountains. The eastern part of GNF, south of I-90 and east of the Yellowstone River, was examined previously by the USGS as part of the mineral resource potential study of the Absaroka-Kootenai study area and is published separately (Hammerstrom and others, 1993).

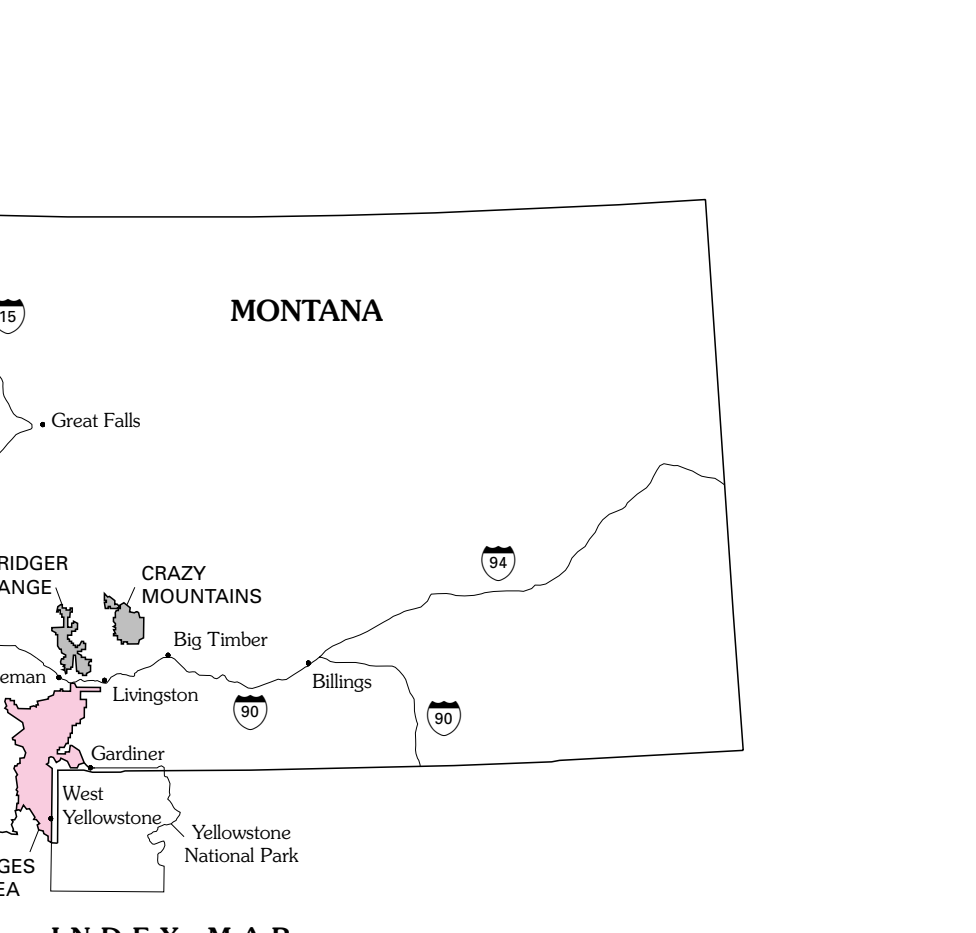
The colored maps of this report supersede a black-and-white version (Wilson and Elliott, 1995). Both maps were digitized, compiled, and produced using the USGS software program GMAP (Selver and Taylor, 1993) and unprocessed proprietary updates to it. All original source maps were digitized at their original scales and map projections, then merged into the final digital map format. After editing, the digital maps were filtered to remove all points not necessary for improving resolution at a scale of 1:126,720 (2 m per in., the scale used in this report and by the U.S. Forest Service).

Rock units are ages from Archean to Holocene. For purposes of resource assessment (Elliott and others, 1995), many rock units have been combined on these maps. Only brief descriptions of rock units are presented here; the reader is referred to original sources for detailed rock unit descriptions.



INDEX TO SOURCES OF GEOLOGIC MAPPING

- [The following sources were also consulted, but are not shown on the "Index to Sources of Geologic Mapping": Fix (1940), Fraser and others (1969), Freeman and others (1950), Hamilton (1964), Pierce and others (1991), Richards (1957), Roberts (1972), Spencer and Rozak (1978), Swanson (1970), Talley (1976), Todd (1969), and Tysdal and others (1986)]
- 1 Adams, K.D., and Pierce, K.L., USGS, 1989, unpublished map compilation, scale 1:62,500.
 - 2 Becraft and others (1966)
 - 3 Bolin (1969)
 - 4 Chadwick (1982)
 - 5 Chadwick, R.A., Montana State University, year unknown, unpublished mapping, approximate scale 1:48,000.
 - 6 Christensen, R.L., and Blank, H.R., Jr., USGS, 1975, unpublished mapping of West Yellowstone quadrangle, scale 1:62,500.
 - 7 Elliott, J.E., USGS, 1994, unpublished mapping of part of Tom Miner basin area and Yankee Jim Canyon area, scale 1:24,000.
 - 8 Erbe (1981, 1983)
 - 9 Hall (1961)
 - 10 Kellogg (1959)
 - 11 Kellogg, Karl, USGS, 1994, unpublished mapping of Willow Swamp quadrangle, scale 1:24,000.
 - 12 Kellogg (1959)
 - 13 Kellogg, Karl, USGS, 1994, unpublished mapping of part of Beacon Point quadrangle, scale 1:24,000.
 - 14 McKenna and Chadwick (1964)
 - 15 Roberts (1964a)
 - 16 Roberts (1964b)
 - 17 Roberts (1964c)
 - 18 Roberts (1964d)
 - 19 Roberts (1964e)
 - 20 Roberts (1964f)
 - 21 Simons and others (1985)
 - 22 Spencer and Rozak (1978, 1980)
 - 23 Swanson (1970)
 - 24 Tysdal and Simons (1985)
 - 25 Tysdal (1990)
 - 26 Tysdal (1990)
 - 27 Tysdal, R.G., USGS, 1980-83, unpublished mapping of Big Sky-Low Mountain area, scale 1:62,500.
 - 28 Wilson, A.B., Hammerstrom, J.M., Van Gosen, B.S., and Elliott, J.E., USGS, 1993, unpublished mapping of Big Sky-Low Mountain area, scale 1:24,000.
 - 29 U.S. Geological Survey (1964)
 - 30 Van Gosen, B.S., USGS, 1993, unpublished mapping of part of Tom Miner basin area, scale 1:24,000.
 - 31 Weber (1965)
 - 32 Wilson and Elliott (1995)
 - 33 Willard (1969)
 - 34 Willard (1972)



INDEX MAP

DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS

GALLATIN AND MADISON RANGES AND WEST YELLOWSTONE AREA

Quaternary—Alluvium, colluvium, talus, landslide deposits, rock glaciers, glacial and glaciolacial deposits, and boulder fields. Only selected major areas, generally exposed for at least 1 m in a single direction, are shown.

Rhyolite (Pleistocene)—Rhyolite flows of Madison Plateau, in extreme southern part of map area. Upper part (about 100 ft) is agglomerate consisting of blocks of black obsidian ranging from granules to large blocks in a matrix of unconsolidated glass shards. Much of the obsidian is crumbly and aphanitic (1–3 cm in diameter and varicolored). Middle part (several hundred feet) is flow-banded rhyolite. Lower part (30 ft) is pebbly and aphanitic (Hamilton, 1964).

Felsic volcanic rocks (Pleistocene and Pliocene)—Includes Felsic Central Plutonic Member (Pliocene), Christian and Blank, 1972, and Yellowstone Group (including Lava Creek Tuff (Pliocene); Christiansen and Blank, 1972 and Huckleberry Ridge Tuff (Pliocene); Loe, 1989). Plutonic rhyolite is light-gray, dense, lithoid, fine-grained to aphanitic, aphyritic (1–3 mm in diameter) of quartz, sanidine, pyroxene, feldspar, and sphere form 25 percent of quartz (Wilford, 1972). Yellowstone Group is light-brown to gray, thick-bedded, mostly rhyolite, porphyritic welded tuff and minor flows. Matrix is chiefly detrital glass shards, phenocrysts of sanidine, quartz, and sparse plagioclase (Tysdal and Simons, 1985; Tysdal, 1990).

Trachyte, rhyolite, and basalt (Eocene)—Dark, porphyritic, trachyte, rhyolite, and trachyte porphyry in volcanic flow and breccias; probably correlates with Absaroka Volcanic Supergroup. Mapped south of Helgren Lake (Christensen and Blank, 1975).

Volcanic rocks of the Absaroka Volcanic Supergroup, undivided (Eocene)—Includes Hyalite Peak and Colneyer Creek Volcanics (Chadwick, 1982). Volcanic flows and breccias, andesite and basalt flows, pyroxene trachyte porphyry, breccia, tuff, conglomerate, sandstone, and quartz matrix. Includes dacite porphyry, leucite, more than 1,500 ft thick, along Gallatin River (Wilford, 1969); silts as much as 400 ft thick and dikes 3–50 ft thick (Tysdal and Simons, 1985; Tysdal, 1990). Rhyolite and trachyte flows on hornblende 68–60 Ma (Tysdal and others, 1986; Tysdal, 1990).

Livingston Formation (Upper Cretaceous)—Upper member is volcanoclastic sandstone, mudflow breccia, volcanic conglomerate, and mudstone; middle member is dacite to basalt, andesite breccia, tuff breccia, welded tuff, dacite flows, and volcanoclastic sandstone; lower member is intertuffaceous volcanoclastic sandstone, olivine basalt, mudflow breccia, volcanic conglomerate, and mudstone. Well exposed. Total thickness 1,500–2,500 ft (Roberts, 1972; Tysdal and Simons, 1985; Tysdal, 1990).

Intrusive rocks, undivided (Eocene)—Dacite, andesite, and basalt, dikes, sills, and small stocks. Dacitic rocks show distinct flow structures and are conspicuously porphyritic; contain phenocrysts of plagioclase, hornblende, and biotite; matrix of feldspar microclots and detrital glass. Andesite and basaltic rocks contain a few small phenocrysts of plagioclase in glaucous groundmass of andesite(?) microclots and interstitial pyroxene and opaque minerals (Simons and others, 1985).

Conglomerate (Eocene)—Pebbles indicated conglomerate of cobbles and boulders of Precambrian granite, amphibolite, vein quartz, Paleozoic carbonate strata, and volcanic rocks. Contacts not exposed; presumed to be basal unit of Tertiary sequence. Mapped only near Garnet Mountain in northern part of Gallatin Range (McMinn and Chadwick, 1964).

Dacitic and andesitic intrusive rocks (Upper Cretaceous)—Gray porphyritic dacite and locally, andesite sills and dikes, hornblende and plagioclase phenocrysts, fine-grained to aphanitic plagioclase, potassium feldspar, and quartz matrix. Includes dacite porphyry, leucite, more than 1,500 ft thick, along Gallatin River (Wilford, 1969); silts as much as 400 ft thick and dikes 3–50 ft thick (Tysdal and Simons, 1985; Tysdal, 1990). Rhyolite and trachyte flows on hornblende 68–60 Ma (Tysdal and others, 1986; Tysdal, 1990).

Upper and Lower Cretaceous sedimentary rocks, undivided—In descending order, includes Moway Shale (Upper Cretaceous) and Madison Sandstone (Lower Cretaceous). Moway Shale is gray, fine-grained, fossiliferous limestone, argillaceous limestone, shale, and varicolored siltstone. Ellis Group is about 80–300 ft thick (Simons and others, 1985; Tysdal, 1990). Upper part contains thin-bedded, poorly exposed red siltstone, shale, and fine-grained sandstone; thin gypsum beds about 50 ft thick (Simons and others, 1985). Lower part is gray, fine-grained, fossiliferous limestone, argillaceous limestone, and gray-green clay shale; local ledge former; only 0–10 ft thick (Tysdal and Simons, 1985). Woodside Shale is thin, thin-bedded siltstone and mudstone interbedded with gypsum and thin gray limestone beds; thickness varies from 0 to 725 ft (Tysdal and Simons, 1985). Dinwoody Formation is brown to yellow-gray, thin-bedded, calcareous siltstone and thin-bedded limestone, siltstone, and calcareous siltstone; about 70–265 ft thick (Simons and others, 1985; Tysdal and Simons, 1985).

Permian, Pennsylvanian, and Mississippian sedimentary rocks, undivided—In descending order, includes Sheehor Sandstone (Permian), Quaternary Sandstone (Pennsylvanian), and Arden Formation (Lower Pennsylvanian and Upper Mississippian). Refer to units Ps and PMu for descriptions of formations.

Sheehor Sandstone (Permian)—Lateral equivalent to the Proterozoic Formation to the west and south (McKee and others, 1959). Mostly brown to gray, locally conglomeratic sandstone containing abundant grains, nodules, and layers of chert and pellets of phosphorite (Simons and others, 1985). From top to bottom: interbedded chert beds and common vertical cylindrical burrows; dark-colored, gray to brown, thin-bedded chert with siltstone partings over phosphatic mudstone and limestone; brown to dark-gray, well-sorted sandstone with interbeds of chert and limestone; and yellow-gray dolomite with abundant chert fragments and a few interbeds of dark brown sandstone. Thickness 115–225 ft (Tysdal and Simons, 1985; Tysdal, 1990).

Quaternary Sandstone (Pennsylvanian) and Arden Formation (Lower Pennsylvanian and Upper Mississippian), undivided—Quaternary Sandstone is white to tan, bedded, clean, well-sorted quartz sandstone with silica or calcite cement. Interbeds of yellow-brown dolomite and gray limestone in lower part. Thickness about 200–315 ft (Tysdal, 1990). Underlying Arden Formation is red to pink, calcareous siltstone to shale. Upper part of formation contains calcareous sandstone cemented with iron oxides; middle and lower parts contain limestone, limestone pebbles conglomerate, and dolomite. Thickness 40–160 ft (Tysdal, 1990). Upper part of formation contains calcareous sandstone and limestone; chert nodules and stringers in lower beds. Total thickness about 1,500–1,750 ft (Tysdal, 1990; Tysdal and Simons, 1985; Simons and others, 1985).

Three Forks Formation (Lower Mississippian and Upper Devonian) and Jefferson and Maywood Formations (Upper Devonian), undivided—At top of unit, Three Forks Formation includes, in descending order, Sapington, Tipton, and Logan Gash Members. Sapington Member is gray to yellow, calcareous siltstone, siltstone, and sandstone; only uppermost part is Lower Mississippian in age. Tipton Member is gray to yellow dolomite, dolomite, and some limestone. Logan Gash Member is red, orange, or yellow carbonate-shale breccias. Total thickness 100–250 ft (Simons and others, 1985; Tysdal, 1990; Tysdal and Simons, 1985). Jefferson Formation includes Beecher Member and underlying Lower Member. Beecher Member is brown, coarse-grained, ledge-forming dolomite. Lower Member is brown-gray, fine-grained (locally) dolomite limestone and limestone; dolomite is field and has porphyroblast color. Total thickness about 300–450 ft (Simons and others, 1985; Tysdal, 1990; Tysdal and Simons, 1985). Locally in northern part of map area, Maywood Formation is a base of unit; pale-brown-gray, silty, sandy, and pebbly dolomite overlying yellow, dolomite, sandy, and conglomeratic siltstone on a regolith (or breccia) base; about 50 ft thick (McMinn and Chadwick, 1964; Roberts, 1964).

Ordovician and Cambrian sedimentary rocks, undivided—In descending order, includes Big Horn (Ordovician) and Madison (Cambrian) Sandstone (Upper Cambrian), and Park Shale, Mesquite Limestone, Wolfey Shale, and Flathead Sandstone (Middle Cambrian). Big Horn (Ordovician) is light-gray, dense cryptocrystalline dolomite, about 35 ft thick (Tysdal, 1990). Snopy Range Formation, which includes Grove Creek Limestone, Sage Limestone, and Dry Creek Shale Members, is a thin, thin-bedded limestone with irregular-shaped red nodules and interbedded red siltstone underlain by green, thin-bedded dolomite and dolomite mudstone with green shale partings in the upper part and red calcareous siltstone and green sandy clay shale in the lower part; thickness about 300 ft (Tysdal, 1990). Flathead Sandstone is brown, nodular limestone and dolomite limestone with partings of dolomite siltstone and silty dolomite. Limestone is glauconitic and mottled. Mud-beds conglomeratic and oolitic beds are common. About 500 ft thick (Tysdal, 1990). Park Shale is gray-green, chippy shale and a few interbeds of limestone. Limestone pebbly conglomerate, and oolitic limestone. Fossil fragments, burrows, and trace fossils ("worm trails") are common. Thickness about 100 ft (Tysdal, 1990). Mesquite Limestone (brownish "mud") is thin crystalline limestone with irregular-shaped, yellow-orange siltstone nodules. Upper part contains thin partings of calcareous siltstone or green clay shale; lower part contains mottled gray oolitic limestone and thin crystalline limestone. About 500 ft thick (Tysdal, 1990). Wolfey Shale is gray-green, fissile, micaceous clay shale; 65–200 ft thick (Tysdal, 1990). Flathead Sandstone is white, tan, and red-brown, hermetic quartz sandstone, locally glauconitic. Crossbeds, ripple marks, and worm trails are common. Thickness 10–100 ft (Tysdal, 1990).

Mesozoic and Paleozoic sedimentary rocks, undivided—Limestone, dolomite, chert, shale, siltstone, and sandstone. Mapped only at east edge of northern part of map area (Chadwick, 1982).

Mafic intrusive rocks, undivided (Proterozoic and Archean)—Diorite and amphibolite dikes and sills. Diorite sills form dikes. Northwest-trending diorite sills in Spanish Peaks area and Proterozoic (K.S. Kellogg, USGS, written comment, June 21, 1996). Plagioclase phenocrysts in a matrix of quartz, smaller plagioclase, and magnetite. Secondary alteration around associated calcic quartz veins that commonly contain malachite (Brecht and others, 1960; Enloe, 1981, 1983).

Ultramafic rocks (Archean)—Serpentinized ultramafic rocks exposed as pods and lenses, generally surrounded by reaction zones (Enloe, 1983).

Metamorphic rocks (Archean)—Gneiss, schist, amphibolite, and quartzite, pegmatite, amphibolite, mafic intrusive (diabase and gabbro) rocks, and minor ultramafic rocks. Includes granitic rocks in Mulholland (Brecht and others, 1960; Enloe, 1981, 1983).

Dolomitic marble (Archean)—Coarsely crystalline dolomite with varicolored quartz veins. Locally contains tremolite (Wilford, 1969, 1972).

Tremolite marble (Archean)—Marble composed almost entirely of bladed tremolite crystals. Light gray to gray; extremely resistant; forms topographic ridges. Tremolite is coarse-grained, coarse-grained marble. Tremolite is from Wilford (1969). Mapped only in southeastern part of map area.

Normal fault—Dashed where approximately located; dotted where concealed. Ball and bar on downthrown side where direction of movement is known. Opposite arrows indicate sense of lateral displacement where known.

Thrust fault—Dotted where concealed. Sawtooth on upper plate.

Overturned thrust fault—Sawtooth in direction of dip; base of sawtooth on side of tectonically higher plate. Shown in extreme northeastern part of map area.

Folds—Dashed where approximately located; dotted where concealed. Showning trace of axial plane, direction of dip of limbs, and direction of plunge of axis.

Anticline

Overturned anticline

Syncline

Overturned syncline

Monocline—Arrow points in direction of dip of beds. Only shown once in unit. Mm in north-central part of map area.

Base from U.S. Geological Survey, 1:100,000
Ahtons, Enns, 1986; Bozeman, Gendine, Livingston, 1982;
Hager Lake, 1983
1927 North American Datum, projection:
Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 12.

Geology compiled by Anna B. Wilson and James E. Elliott.
See "Index to Sources of Geologic Mapping."
Digital geology by Anna B. Wilson.
Editing and digital cartography by Alexander J. Donatich.
Color design by Patricia L. Wilber and Anna B. Wilson.
Manuscript approved for publication October 8, 1998.

**MAP A. WESTERN PART OF GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST
(GALLATIN AND MADISON RANGES AND WEST YELLOWSTONE AREA)**

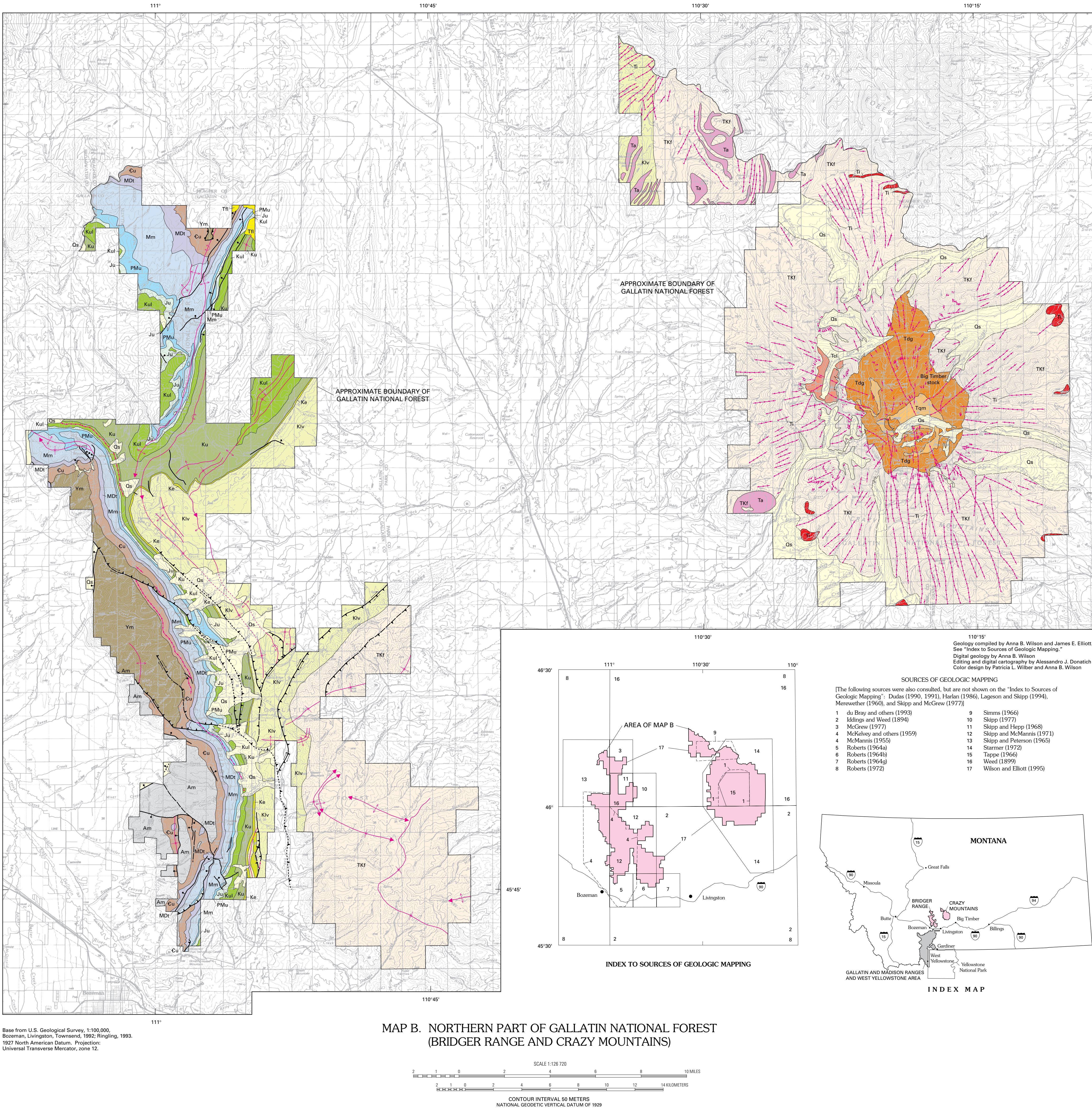
SCALE 1:126,720

CONTOUR INTERVAL 50 METERS
(Except Ashton quadrangle, contour interval 20 meters)
SUPPLEMENTARY CONTOUR INTERVAL 25 METERS IN HEBRON LAKE QUADRANGLE
NATIONAL GEOLOGIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

**GEOLOGIC MAPS OF WESTERN AND NORTHERN PARTS OF
GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST, SOUTH-CENTRAL MONTANA**

Compiled by
Anna B. Wilson and James E. Elliott
1997

USGS
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



MAP B. NORTHERN PART OF GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST
(BRIDGER RANGE AND CRAZY MOUNTAINS)

GEOLOGIC MAPS OF WESTERN AND NORTHERN PARTS OF GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST, SOUTH-CENTRAL MONTANA



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1997